



Transportation Plan Arches National Park



Project Information Sheet

January 2003

• Scope of Project •

The following tasks will be completed as part of the development of the Transportation Plan for Arches National Park:

- Data Collection/Research & Existing Conditions Analysis
- Evaluation of Travel Survey Results
- Workshops with Park Staff and Regional Stakeholders
- Public Workshops in Denver, Moab, and Salt Lake City
- Forecasting of Visitation Trends
- Evaluation of Alternative Transportation Strategies
- Environmental Analysis (NEPA Compliance)
- Preparation of the Transportation Plan

Come Share Your Ideas

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Thursday

February 6, 2003

Castle Rock Inn

815 South Main Street
Moab, Utah

877-581-8700 or 435-259-8700

2-5 P.M. & 6-9 P.M.

Please note: These meetings will provide the opportunity for public comment on the scope for environmental analysis. Each meeting will be identical in format. You need not attend both, but are welcome to, if you like.



The Visitor Center parking lot is frequently full, causing many visitors to miss important information and orientation.

Project Description

The popularity of Arches National Park has grown rapidly in recent years, and the quality and diversity of visitor experiences at many popular attractions in the park have changed over the years. Traffic congestion and crowding occur more frequently at parking areas, trailheads and popular rock formations. During the busy season, long lines of cars wait to enter the park, and the visitor center parking area is often full. Although plans for redesign of the park entrance road and visitor center parking area will alleviate some traffic congestion at the park entrance, the new parking lot will not meet parking demand during peak season.

Based on these conditions, the National Park Service



Overcrowding at popular features forces parking on road shoulders, damaging vegetation and environmentally sensitive soils.

(NPS) has identified the need to develop a Multi-modal Transportation Plan for the park. This transportation plan will begin to address problems that past projects couldn't solve and will use transportation planning strategies to address issues resulting from crowding. The plan will focus on the needs of the park, but will also consider potential transportation alternatives and solutions that might be beneficial to the City of Moab and vicinity. A variety of potential strategies and

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Project Description

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approaches will be considered for mitigating transportation problems to meet the goals and objectives of the park's General Management Plan (GMP) and Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) Plan. Options such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, shuttle service, parking lot and trailhead enhancements, and congestion management through varying fee structures and/or reservation systems will be evaluated.

Environmental analysis in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will also be completed as part of the evaluation of transportation alternatives. The process will identify and assess potential environmental impacts related to traffic



During peak periods, long lines form at park entrance station.

congestion, parking, traffic safety, air quality, aesthetics, plants and animals, and the quality of the visitor experience. Protection of the park's fragile ecosystem and preservation of its diverse natural, cultural, and recreational resources will be important considerations that shape the development of transportation alternatives.

The public is invited to attend a workshop planned for February 6, 2003 to provide input and ideas for the plan and to

comment on what elements should be addressed by the scope of the environmental analysis (see announcement).

The anticipated schedule for development of the Transportation Plan is depicted below. Look for periodic updates on the progress of the Transportation Plan and additional public meeting announcements in the future as the project proceeds.

For More Information, Contact:

– **Rock Smith** –
Superintendent
Arches National Park
(435) 719-2201
– **Paul Henderson** –
Public Affairs
National Park Service
(435) 719-2140

Park Website: www.nps.gov/arch/

Arches National Park PROJECT SCHEDULE

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|-------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | O N D | J F M A M J J A S O N D | J F M A M J J A S O N |
| Project Start Up | ■ | | |
| Data Collection/Identify Future Data Needs | ■ | ■ | |
| 1st Park Workshop: Issues Analysis/Public Meetings | | ◆ | |
| Travel Surveys Developed, Conducted & Analyzed | | ■ | |
| Forecasting of Visitation Trends | | | ■ |
| 2nd Park Workshop: Alternatives Development/Public Meetings | | | ◆ (Estimated Date) |
| Transportation Plan Preparation & Environmental Analysis | | | ■ |
| Draft Transportation Plan Available for Public Review | | | ◆ (Estimated Date) |